

## **Draft recommendations to include with no further discussion**

### **Improve Communication and Coordination between State, Federal, Local and Regional Partners to Streamline Sea Level Rise Adaptation Efforts**

1. Inventory existing funding, coordination, regulations and policies for barriers and opportunities.
2. Coordinate with Maryland Department of Transportation.
4. Improve coordination of permit decisions at the Federal, State and local level.
5. Incorporate sea level rise into regional planning efforts.
6. Leverage resources for research and development of shoreline stabilization techniques and sediment management techniques through regional, State and Federal partnerships.
7. Coordinate future land purchases and preservation opportunities with the Open Space Council and Agricultural Land Preservation Program.
8. Develop a sea level rise group within the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (ASSHTO)

### **Provide Increased Regulatory Flexibility for Adaptation and Improve Consistency between Regulatory Agency Decisions**

2. Allow conceptual design planning for sea level rise to expedite permit process.
4. Promote local land use ordinances that discourage the siting of infrastructure in potential inundation areas without considering the effects of sea level rise.
5. Consider sea level rise implications in future regulatory updates of wastewater systems and wells.
6. Inventory existing funding, coordination, regulations and policy for barriers and opportunities.
7. Ensure that state regulations are not contradictory or at cross purposes.
8. Sign an Executive Order to direct agencies to plan and manage for sea level rise.
9. Improve political willingness to include sea level rise in decision making process.
10. Incentivize regulations that encourage adaptation to sea level rise and allow innovative projects.
11. Evaluate the State Coastal Zone Act for changes that would allow industry more flexibility to adapt for sea level rise.
12. Create legislation to address transfer of facilities in case of retreat; decrease number of abandoned assets, liability of assisting facilities.

### **Provide Consistent and Predictable Policies for Future Growth, Investment, and Natural Resource Management**

1. Incorporate sea level rise into the Strategies for State Spending and Policy and Policy and Comprehensive Development Plans.
2. Incorporate sea level rise into Delaware's long term Transportation Master Plan.

3. Incorporate sea level rise into the Transportation Operations Management Plan.
4. Include sea level rise in the transportation design manuals.
5. Develop a statewide retreat plan.
8. Develop a dike and levee safety program similar to the Dam Safety Program.
9. Designate shoreline zones for adaptation action.
10. Understand need for protection between bayshore communities.
12. Develop comprehensive wetlands restoration strategy.
13. Re-evaluate management strategy of existing coastal impoundments.
15. Develop a framework for decision making regarding land protection and restoration strategies based on habitat vulnerability, migration potential and relative importance in the regional landscape, historical significance, or other key factors.
16. Develop means to evaluate natural preserves to determine response.

#### **Increase Public Awareness of Sea Level Rise through Education, Outreach and Marketing**

1. Develop a comprehensive outreach strategy; educate public about sea level rise.
2. Education and outreach for impacted communities and citizens.
4. Require real estate disclosures for properties in vulnerable areas, providing a means for potential homebuyers to understand their risks to sea level rise.
5. Improve data availability to the public (and others), including information about success stories as well as marketing and education.
6. Targeted outreach to water and wastewater operators and water utilities.

#### **Expand Funding Opportunities for Adaptation Planning and Implementation Projects**

4. Evaluate the Federal Farm Bill or farmland conservation programs to identify financial compensation to encourage wetland migration on farmlands adjacent to wet areas.
5. Inventory existing funding, coordination, regulations, and policy for barriers and opportunities

#### **Improve Availability and Robustness of Sea Level Rise Data Sets**

1. Conduct a risk assessment for Delaware's system of dikes and levees.
2. Develop and maintain a comprehensive database.
3. Identify data needs to plan transportation investments.
4. Model Potential Stormwater Inundation Problems in highly vulnerable areas.
5. Develop a model that will predict changes to salinity in surface water that may occur under differing sea level rise scenarios.
6. Develop a statewide groundwater model.
8. Improve monitoring of current sea level conditions and improve predictions for timing of inundation.
9. Increase understanding of the regional implications of loss of industrial areas in coastal Delaware.
10. Improve understanding of impacts to adjacent properties from adaptation actions.

11. Develop sea level models that incorporate storm surge impacts.
12. Foster pilot projects that demonstrate the effectiveness of best management practices for management of agricultural lands affected by sea level rise.
13. Identify and Preserve areas for potential wetland migration.
14. Encourage Federal agencies to integrate Sea Level Rise Planning into their models

**Provide Technical Assistance to Partners for assessing Vulnerability and Choosing Adaptation Strategies.**

1. Ensure consistent decision-making between state agencies.
2. Create a Coordinated Effort to Provide Technical Assistance to Local Governments, including funding.
3. Provide land managers and farmers with the information and Extension support necessary to manage lands in areas affected by sea level rise.
4. Provide Technical Assistance for Industrial and Port Facilities to incorporate sea level rise into investment plans and continuity of business plans.
5. Develop a Best Management Practice Manual for Adaptation in Delaware.